File CB 63-76

Approved For Release 2001/05/17 : CARDP 9T01003A001700210001-9

DDI-4767-63

19 September 1963

MENORANDUM FOR:

Secretary of Commerce Department of Commerce

SUBJECT

Large Soviet Purchase of Canadian Wheat

- 1. I think you will find the attached report particularly helpful in evaluating the recent Soviet undertaking to purchase Canadian wheat and flour. The sizeable Soviet expenditures in hard currency required by this agreement and by the recent wheat purchase from Australia, together with the foreign oxchange outlays which would result from the huge purchase of chemical fertilizor equipment currently being negotiated with the Japanese, attest to the seriousness of Khrushchev's intentions to improve food supplies. In view of the difficult balance of payment situation faced by the Soviets in recent years, it seems certain that these purchases will be at the expense of imports for other priority sectors of the economy.
- 2. This paper argues against the thesis that the Soviets were engaged in pre-emptive buying against the Chinese. It seems certain that this agreement was intended to relieve the tight grain situation within the USSR and to assist the Soviet Union to meet its export commitments to the European Satellites and Cuba. Moreover, it tends to support our estimate that official Soviet data on grain production in recent years has been substantially overstated.

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PAY S. CLINE Deputy Director (Intelligence)

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Attachment

CIA/RR CB 63-76, 17 Sept 63 Subject: USSR Contracts for Huge Purchase of Canadian Wheat Q/DD/I: hof:19 Sept 63

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Under Secretary of Commerce

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18 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Dissemination Control Branch, DD/CR

FROM

: Chief. Publications Staff, ORR

SUBJECT

: Transmittal of Material

It is requested that the attached copies of CIA/RR CB 63-76, USSR Contracts for Huge Purchase of Canadian Wheat, 17 September 1963, Secret, be forwarded as follows:

Copies 211 & 212

Department of Agriculture, Control Desk, FAS, Room 4085, South Agriculture Building

- 1 Eugene T. Olson, Special Ass't., Sino-Soviet Agricultural Service, Room 415-W. Administration Bldg.
- Lazar Volin, Chief, East European Analysis Branch, Regional Analysis Division, Economic Research Service, Room 4512, South Building

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2 Attachments

Date: 1984163

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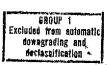
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